Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (original) Method for verifying digitized images of persons, in particular, for verifying the suitability of an image of a person for person identification, with the steps:

        segmenting the image of a person into a background area and a head or face area,

        analyzing the head or face area to determine at least one characteristic value,

        comparing the at least one characteristic value with at least one predetermined threshold value.

2.   (original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of segmenting comprises performing a method for object recognition.

3.   (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein analyzing the head or face area comprises detecting at least one geometric feature of the head or face area.

4.   (original) Method according to claim 3, wherein detecting at least one geometric feature of the head or face area comprises a size and/or shape and/or position and/or spatial orientation of the head or face area within the image of a person.

5.   (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein analyzing the head or face area comprises detecting at least one reproduction feature of the head or face area.

6.   (original) Method according to claim 5, wherein the at least one reproduction feature that is to be detected comprises a contrast and/or a color distribution and/or a sharpness of the image and/or a brightness and/or a grade of staining and/or a measure for the irradiation of the head or face area.

7.   (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein analyzing the head or face area comprises localizing sub-regions of the head or face area.

8.   (original) Method according to claim 7 with the additional step:

        analyzing the at least one localized sub-region.

9.   (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 with the step:

        analyzing the image of a person with respect to global criteria that apply to the entire image of a person.

10.   (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 with the step:

        analyzing the background area of the image of a person.

11.   (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 with the step:

        determining whether a negatively evaluated image could fulfill the predetermined quality criteria after image correction.

12.   (currently amended) A correction method for digitized images of persons and, in particular, for an image of a person, which does not fulfill one or more quality criteria during a verification method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising

correcting at least one image reproduction feature in the entire image and/or the head or face area and/or the background area, and/or

correcting at least one geometric feature of a head or face area displayed in the image of a person.

13.   (currently amended) A data processing means for executing a method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1.

14.   (original) A data processing means for executing a method according to claim 12.

15.   (currently amended) A data processing means for executing a <u>verification</u> method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 and for executing a <u>correction</u> method ~~according to claim 12~~ <u>for digitized images of persons and, in particular, for an image of a person, which does not fulfill one or more quality criteria during the verification method, comprising</u>

<u>correcting at least one image reproduction feature in the entire image and/or the head or face area and/or the background area, and/or</u>

<u>correcting at least one geometric feature of a head or face area displayed in the image of a person.</u>

16.   (currently amended) System for quality verification and correction of digitized images of persons comprising

a storage means for storing digitized image data, <u>and one of</u>

a <u>first</u> data processing means <u>for executing a method</u> according to ~~claim 13~~ <u>claim 1</u> and a <u>second</u> data processing means <u>for executing a correction method</u> for digitized images of persons and, in particular, for an image of a person, which does not fulfill one or more quality criteria during a verification method according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~claim 14~~ <u>comprising</u>

<ins>correcting at least one image reproduction feature in the entire image
and/or the head or face area and/or the background area, and/or</ins>

<ins>correcting at least one geometric feature of a head or face area displayed
in the image of a person,</ins> ~~or~~ <ins>and</ins>

a data processing means <ins>for executing a verification method</ins> according to
~~claim 15~~ <ins>claim 1 and for executing a correction method for digitized images of
persons and, in particular, for an image of a person, which does not fulfill one
or more quality criteria during the verification method, comprising</ins>

<ins>correcting at least one image reproduction feature in the entire image
and/or the head or face area and/or the background area, and/or</ins>

<ins>correcting at least one geometric feature of a head or face area displayed
in the image of a person</ins>.

17.   (original) A system according to claim 16 comprising

an apparatus for generating digitized image data.

18.   (currently amended) A system according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~ comprising

a display device for displaying whether a verified image or a modified image
observes predetermined quality standards.

19.   (new) Method according to claim 2, wherein analyzing the head or face area
comprises detecting at least one geometric feature of the head or face area.

20.   (new) Method according to claim 2, wherein analyzing the head or face area
comprises detecting at least one reproduction feature of the head or face
area.